

What is claimed is:

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1. A Coriolis mass flow rate/density/viscosity sensor designed to be installed in a pipe through which a fluid flows at least temporarily, and comprising:

- 10 - a first measuring tube bent to a V shape in a first plane symmetrically with respect to a first axis of symmetry;
- a second measuring tube bent to a V shape in a second plane symmetrically with respect to a second axis of symmetry,
- 15 -- which measuring tubes are arranged parallel to each other and are each of one-piece construction, and
- each of which measuring tubes has
- a straight inlet portion with an inlet axis lying in the first plane and second plane, respectively,
- 20 --- a straight outlet portion with an outlet axis lying in the first plane and second plane, respectively, and aligned with the inlet axis,
- an inlet bend connected with the inlet portion,
- an outlet bend connected with the outlet portion,
- 25 --- a first straight tube portion connected with the inlet bend,
- a second straight tube portion connected with the outlet bend, and
- a vertex bend connected with the first and second
- 30 straight tube portions,
- which inlet portions are fixed in an inlet manifold, which outlet portions are fixed in an outlet manifold, and
- which manifolds are mounted in a support frame which
- 35 forms part of a housing;
- an excitation arrangement

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- which in operation causes the measuring tubes to vibrate as a tuning fork,
 - a first portion of which is fixed to the vertex bend of the first measuring tube in the area of the axis of symmetry of the first measuring tube, and
 - a second portion of which is fixed to the vertex bend of the second measuring tube in the area of the axis of symmetry of the second measuring tube;
 - a first velocity or displacement sensor,
 - a first portion of which is fixed to the first straight tube portion of the first measuring tube, and
 - a second portion of which is fixed to the first straight tube portion of the second measuring tube;
 - a second velocity or displacement sensor, positioned symmetrically with respect to the axes of symmetry of the measuring tubes,
 - a first portion of which is fixed to the second straight tube portion of the first measuring tube, and a second portion of which is fixed to the second straight tube portion of the second measuring tube;
 - a feedthrough mounted in the support frame opposite the vertex bends and containing several electric conductors; and
 - a printed-circuit board attached to the support frame and extending between the support frame and the vertex bends and having conducting tracks
 - to which leads of the excitation system and of the velocity or displacement sensors are connected.
2. The Coriolis mass flow rate/density/viscosity sensor as claimed in claim 1 wherein the measuring tubes
- are rigidly connected by a first node plate in the vicinity of a location
 - where the respective inlet portion passes into the respective inlet bend,

- are rigidly connected by a second node plate in the vicinity of a location
 - where the respective inlet bend passes into the respective first straight tube portion,
 - 5 - are rigidly connected by a third node plate in the vicinity of a location
 - where the respective outlet portion passes into the respective outlet bend, and
 - are rigidly connected by a fourth node plate in the vicinity of a location
 - 10 -- where the respective outlet bend passes into the respective second straight tube portion.
3. The Coriolis mass flow rate/density/viscosity sensor as claimed in claim 1 or 2 wherein electrodynamic velocity sensors are used and the excitation system is of the electrodynamic type.
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4. The Coriolis mass flow rate/density/viscosity sensor as claimed in anyone of claims 1 to 3 wherein
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- the support frame is of one-piece construction and is made of stainless sheet steel of constant width and thickness having a front face and a rear face, comprises:
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- a plane inlet frame portion, which has the inlet manifold welded therein,
 - a plane outlet frame portion, which has the outlet manifold welded therein,
 - a plane feedthrough frame portion connecting the inlet frame portion and outlet frame portion and having the feedthrough mounted therein in a pressure-tight manner,
 - 30 -- a first plane extension frame portion extending from the inlet frame portion at an angle greater than 90°,
 - a bent vertex frame portion passing into the first extension frame portion, and
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- a second plane extension frame portion extending from the outlet frame portion at said angle and passing into the vertex frame portion; and
 - the support frame is supplemented by a plane front sheet of stainless steel, which is welded to the front, and a plane rear sheet of the same steel, which is welded to the rear face, to form the housing.
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5. The Coriolis mass flow rate/density/viscosity sensor as claimed in anyone of claims 1 to 4 wherein the feedthrough comprises:
- a flange attached to the support frame and having a hole;
 - the printed-circuit board, which is passed through a slot formed in the feedthrough frame portion and extends into the flange, with the printed-circuit board and the slot separated by a distance sufficient for electric isolation;
 - a disk of insulating material resting on the feedthrough frame portion and through which the printed-circuit board is passed; and
 - an insulating compound filling a portion of the hole lying above the disk, the insulating compound having a thickness at least equal to the gap length specified for type of protection Ex-d as a function of gap width.